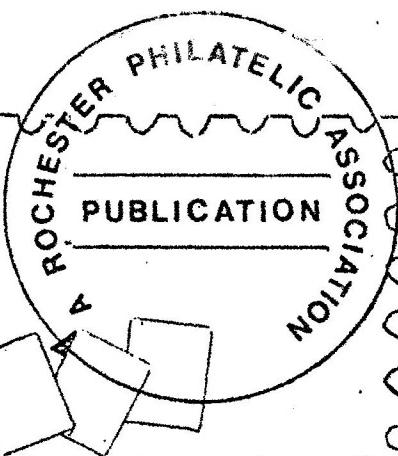


The RPA MEETS SECOND AND FOURTH THURSDAYS OF EACH MONTH



# HINGES AND TONGS



POST OFFICE BOX # 3800 BRIGHTON STATION ROCHESTER, NEW YORK, 14619

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\*\*\*\*\* EDITORIAL \*\*\*\*\* by John Kellas

Since President Carter first came out with the idea for a "Citizen's Rate" class of mail, many citizens have suggested different ways and means of improving the P.O. and holding the costs. As the present plan for a 13¢ Citizen's rate and 16¢ First Class rate developed, it is clear that the idea just won't work without first over-hauling the existing rate system ( its really mind-boggling ). Its time for a major CHANGE in our postal system!

A new rate system has been developed and is in use in New Zealand which could serve as a model system. The New Zealand Post Office introduced a new Standard Letter System of Postal Charging on October 1, 1977. The new SLS coincides with the introduction of METRICATION in the post office, and is designed to make mail handling easier for customers and post staff alike.

The first step was standard sizing of envelopes.. In New Zealand 90% of all enveloped mail currently being posted already conforms to standard dimensions. The NZ post office charges a single flat rate of 10¢ to cover these items REGARDLESS of what they contain, what they weigh, or whether they are sealed or unsealed. What this all means, is that instead of postage being based on weight, it is based on the size and shape of the letter. Size and shape has become a more important factor in handling mail costs over recent years.

Envelopes larger than the standard size and articles in roll or packet form cost more to handle - thus the postage will be higher and is determined by the weight of the item in metric steps. (11¢ for the first 100 grams) During busy periods, such odd sized mail may not get the same priority as standard letters. However, standard letter priority can be insured for such odd sized mail by marking them "LETTER" and paying the nonstandard letter rate of postage. Post cards qualify for the 10¢ flat rate provided they conform to the standard letter dimensions.

A cheaper bulk postage rate is available for very large postings of standard envelopes or other articles which can be put aside for processing during off-peak periods.

A special rate of 7¢ applies to Christmas and New Year cards (any size) for delivery within New Zealand posted from mid-November through December. The envelopes must be endorsed "Card".

Postage rates for airmail and parcels in the inland post and for all mail in the overseas service will continue to be based on the nature of the item, its destination, and its metric weight.

New Zealand's post office handles a large volume of mail, even though the country is small. The SLS rate method that New Zealand has developed could be a model system for our U.S.P.S. to expand upon and improve service. What are your thoughts on this important subject??

\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER MEETINGS \*\*\*\*\*

- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> --- SILENT AUCTION: Bring in your philatelic material and try your luck at a RPA auction. Official lot sheets will be available at the meeting. See you all there!
- Dec. 22<sup>th</sup> -- Traditional Season Greeting Party: This is an informal meeting which affords everyone the chance to celebrate the Holidays. Everyone is asked to bring one grab-bag gift (\$1 value) with them. Lots of good fun!!

\*\*\*\*\* DECEMBER ISSUES \*\*\*\*\*

- DEC. 7 : CANADA - 45¢, 50¢, 60¢ definitive values depicting street scenes.
- DEC. 8 : U.S. - 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢ "Americana Definitives" values depicting "A Root Of Democracy" theme.

\*\*\*\*\* ROPEX - 78 \*\*\*\*\*

RPA members will shortly be seeing articles about ROPEX-78 in the Philatelic Press. EXCITING ROPEX news will be foret coming.....

\*\*\*\*\* RPA MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

As you all know RPA meetings are open to the invited public. How about every RPA member inviting a friend to a RPA meeting? More new members make for a healthier Rochester Philatelic Association.